(b) whether keeping in view the power crisis in Andhra Pradesh, the Union Government would instruct the concerned authrities to pay the electricity bills to Andhra Pradesh Electricity Board immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) According to the information furnished by the Transmission Corporation of A.P., there are no outstanding dues against Central Government Departments. However, an amount of 8465.53 lakhs is outstanding against Central Government Public Sector Undertakings as on 31.3.2001.

(b) Consequent to the resolution adopted in the Conference of the Chief Ministers/Power Ministers held on 3rd March, 2001, an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Shri M.S. Ahluwalia, Member (Energy), Planning Commission has been constituted recently to recommend measures for one time settlement of outstanding dues of State Electricity Board towards the Central Public Undertakings as also the dues from the CPSUs to State Power Utilities.

Financial assistance to States committed for power sector reforms

4345. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Finance Corporation has evolved a scheme to provide financial assistance to States committed to reforms in power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any State especially Maharashtra has been allocated fund for accelerated power development programme during the last one year; and

(d) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Power Finance Corporation (PFC) provides both technical and financial assistance to the reforming States. The details of such assistance are given in the Annexure. *[See* Appendix 192, Annexure

No. 29J. PFC's policy on financial package for reforming States, through which PFC meets a major portion of the reform related funding of reforming States, are at Annexure. *[See* Appendix 192, Annexure No. 29].

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details of the funds allocated to various States including Maharashtra under the Acclerated Power Development Programme (APDP) during 2000-2001 are given in the Annexure *[See* Appendix 192, Annexure No. 29].

Electricity tariff increased by Gujarat Government

† 4346. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat have sharply increased the tariff of electricity which is causing great hardship to the general public;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the date when the last increase was made in this regard;

(c) whether the State Electricity Board is heading towards huge deficit due to expenditures being incurred on administration and other works; and

(d) whether the Central Government are contemplating to entrust the executive and operational arrangements of the Gujarat Electricity Board to private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The rates for power supply to various categories of consumers in Gujarat have been revised on 10.10.2000 on the basis of tariffs determined by the Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission. The prevailing and increased rates as on 9.10.2000 and 10.10.2000 including electricity duty and FCA are given in the statement indicating percentage increase in the rates. *(See* below). The percentage increase has been in the range of 1.5% for agricultural consumers to 97.59% for

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.